

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1: After the title, insert:

--This is a 371 national phase application of PCT/JP2003/008595 filed 07 July 2003, claiming priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-257467 filed 03 September 2002, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.—

Page 2: Replace the paragraph starting on line 17 and ending on page 3, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention is directed to a vehicle control apparatus, where a motor is driven with power of an engine to rotate a drive shaft linked to drive wheels. The vehicle control apparatus includes: a power demand determination module that determines a power demand to be output to the drive shaft according to a vehicle driving state; a control module that controls the engine and the motor with the determined power demand; a skid detection module that detects a skid occurring on the drive wheels; and a torque restriction module that, in response to detection of a skid by the skid detection module, restricts a torque level of the drive wheels for reduction of the skid. Under restriction of the torque level of the drive wheels by the torque restriction module, the power demand determination module limits the power demand, which is determined according to the vehicle driving state, with power restriction rate that is regulated to have a specified relation to a torque restriction rate of restricting the torque level of the drive wheels.

Page 3: Replace the paragraph starting on line 7 and ending on line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

The vehicle control apparatus determines the power demand to be output to the drive shaft according to the vehicle driving state, and controls the engine and the motor with the determined power demand. In response to detection of a skid occurring on the drive wheels, the torque level of the drive wheels is restricted for reduction of the skid. Under restriction of the torque

level of the drive wheels, the vehicle control apparatus limits the power demand, which is determined according to the vehicle driving state, with a power restriction rate that is regulated to have a specified relation to a torque restriction rate of restricting the torque level of the drive wheels. The control of the engine with the unchanged large power demand to be output to the drive shaft under the restriction of the torque level of the drive wheels causes a large engine noise beyond the driver's expectation based on the vehicle driving state with restriction of the torque level. The vehicle control apparatus of the invention limits the power demand under such conditions, thus restraining a large engine noise beyond the driver's expectation based on the vehicle driving state and preventing the driver from feeling uncomfortable.